Rationalisation of air schedules

1334. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal for rationalisation of air schedules of flights in all the routes in consequence to opening India sky to a number of private airlines;

(b) whether there are adequate facilities for the maintenance of the crafts to make all of them airworthy to ensure safety, in view of the sudden spasmodic spuri in the number of crafts operating in India; and

(c) if not, how are these crafts allowed to operate ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Orders have been issued prescribing conditions for operation of scheduled air transport service on non-trunk routes and in far flung by those who operate scheduled services on trunk routes.

(b) and (c) Air transport operators are required to make adequate arrangements to ensure airworthiness of their aircraft. Only aircraft possessing valid certificate of airworthiness are allowed to be operated by DGCA.

Delay in I.A. Flights

1335. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to stated.

(a) whether Government are aware of delays in I.A. flights amlost regularly;

(b) what are the reasons for such delays making I.A. Flights most unpunctual; and

(c) what steps, if any, have been taken to improve this situation ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) During the period April, 1993 to January, 1994 over 66% of Indian Airlines flights left on time.

(b) The main reasons for delays were—adverse weather, non-availability of airport facilities, delays in maintenance and handling nd consequential delays.

(c) Delays are monitored and investigated at the Regional and Headquarter levels and remedial measures taken.

Discount offered by ITDC Hotels to IA Passengers

1336. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem published in Telegraph of Calcutta dated the 30th December 1993 regarding the discount offered by the ITDC hotels to I.A. passengers ;

(b) if so, what has been the precise response, stating the names of passengers, duration of their stay in each of the ITDC hoteis and the revenue earned by the ITDC through this novel scheme; and

(c) whether any non-public sector hotel or airline has also implemented similar schemes and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The response of the scheme has been encouraging and it is being operated success fully in 20 different hotels of ITDC where 1069 guest nights were sold and a revenue of Rs. 11.96 lakhs was generated from 3-12-93 to 18-2-94.

(c) Such arrangements are not regulated by Government.

Foreign Visits made by Minister

1337. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state the names of the countries visited by the Minister of Civil Aviation and Tourism and Minister of States for Tourism during the last three years, the purpose of visits, the duration of visits and the expenditure incurred in such visits, year-wise and ccuntry-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : The necessary information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.